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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/711,784

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James C. Peele

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EXAMINER

LEVI, DAMEON E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/711,784

Applicant(s)

PEELE, JAMES C.

Examiner

Dameon E. Levi

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8 and 12-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fehrman et al US Patent 6193163 in view of Atsumi US Patent 5736781.**

Regarding claim 1, Fehrman et al discloses an interface module (element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10), for an electronic device, comprising a card including a body and at least one component (element 16, Figs 1-14), selected from the group including memory, a processor, and a power source, and the body having a longitudinal axis, wherein the body has a cross-sectional shape (element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10) other than one bounded by substantially parallel major surfaces.

Fehrman et al does not expressly disclose electrical contacts spaced along the longitudinal axis.

Atsumi discloses an interface module (1) wherein electrical contacts (elements 111-116, Figs 1-13) are spaced along the longitudinal axis of the module body.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have arranged the contacts along the longitudinal axis as taught

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by Atsumi in the module of Fehrman et al for the purpose of facilitating electrical communication between the interface module and the host device.

Regarding claim 2, Fehrman et al discloses wherein the cross-sectional shape of the body is substantially circular (element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10).

Regarding claim 3, Fehrman et al discloses wherein the cross-sectional shape of the body is substantially elliptical (element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10).

Regarding claim 5, Fehrman et al discloses wherein the electrical contacts (element 18, Figs 1-14) on the body extend substantially around the periphery of the body.

Regarding claim 6, Fehrman et al discloses further comprising a head at one end of the body, the head extending outward from the longitudinal axis of the body a greater distance than the body (element 32,34, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104B, Figs 9-10).

Regarding claim 7, Fehrman et al discloses wherein the cross-sectional shape of the head is selected from the group comprising substantially circular, substantially elliptical, and a shape having at least three substantially straight sides (element 32,34, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104B, Figs 9-10).

Regarding claim 8, Fehrman et al discloses an interface module (element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10) for an electronic device, comprising a card including a body and at least one component (element 16, Figs 1-14) selected from the group including memory, a processor, and a power source, and the body having a longitudinal axis, wherein the body has a cross-sectional shape that is substantially rectangular and other than substantially planar, and wherein a substantially planar shape is one having

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a height to width ratio of less than approximately 0.5(element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10).

Fehrman et al does not expressly disclose electrical contacts spaced along the longitudinal axis.

Atsumi discloses an interface module (1) wherein electrical contacts (elements 111-116, Figs 1-13) are spaced along the longitudinal axis of the module body.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have arranged the contacts along the longitudinal axis as taught by Atsumi in the module of Fehrman et al for the purpose of facilitating electrical communication between the interface module and the host device.

Regarding claim 12, Fehrman et al discloses wherein the electrical contacts, (element 18, Figs 1-14 on the body extend substantially around the periphery of the body.

Regarding claim 13, Fehrman et al discloses further comprising a head at one end of the body, the head extending outward from the longitudinal axis of the body a greater distance than the body (element 32,34, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104B, Figs 9-10).

Regarding claim 14, Fehrman et al discloses wherein the cross-sectional shape of the head is selected from the group comprising substantially circular, substantially elliptical, and a shape having at least three substantially straight sides (element 32,34, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104B, Figs 9-10).

Regarding claim 15, Fehrman et al discloses an interface module (element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10) for an electronic device, comprising a card including a body and at least one component (element 16, Figs 1-14) selected from the group

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including memory, a processor, and a power source, and the body having a longitudinal axis,

Wherein the cross-sectional shape of the body(element 14, Figs 1-8 and 11-14 element 104, Figs 9-10) is selected from the group including substantially circular, substantially elliptical, substantially rectangular and having a height to width ratio of at least 0.5, and a shape other than a rectangle having at least three substantially straight sides.

Fehrman et al does not expressly disclose electrical contacts spaced along the longitudinal axis.

Atsumi discloses an interface module(1) wherein electrical contacts(elements 111-116, Figs 1-13) are spaced along the longitudinal axis of the module body.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have arranged the contacts along the longitudinal axis as taught by Atsumi in the module of Fehrman et al for the purpose of facilitating electrical communication between the interface module and the host device.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-8, and 12-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dameon E. Levi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2105. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. (9:00 - 5:00) IFP, Fridays Telework.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Dameon E Levi  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2841

DEL

TUAN T. DINH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

10/14/07.